MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA LIMITED

The History

- An English syndicate of investors represented by John Waddington proposed the building of a rail line from Helena Vale to Geraldton.
- The proposal was accepted by the Western Australian Government in 1884 and the Waddington agreement for construction of the rail line was signed in February 1886.
- March 1886 the first sod was turned in Helena Vale, and construction of the Midland Railway line commenced.

The History

- The construction of the line was plaqued by continual problems with the main reason being finance. Construction was halted from 1887 to 1890.
- The line from Helena Vale to Walkaway was completed in November 1894 opening up the Midlands Region for agriculture and settlement.

The History

- In exchange for building the railway, the Western Australian Government gave the company 12,000 acres of freehold land for every mile of railway. The company received a total of over three million acres (1.3 million hectares).

- The Midland Railway Company of Western Australia Limited was taken over by the Western Australian Government Railways in August 1964.

M.R.&W.A.

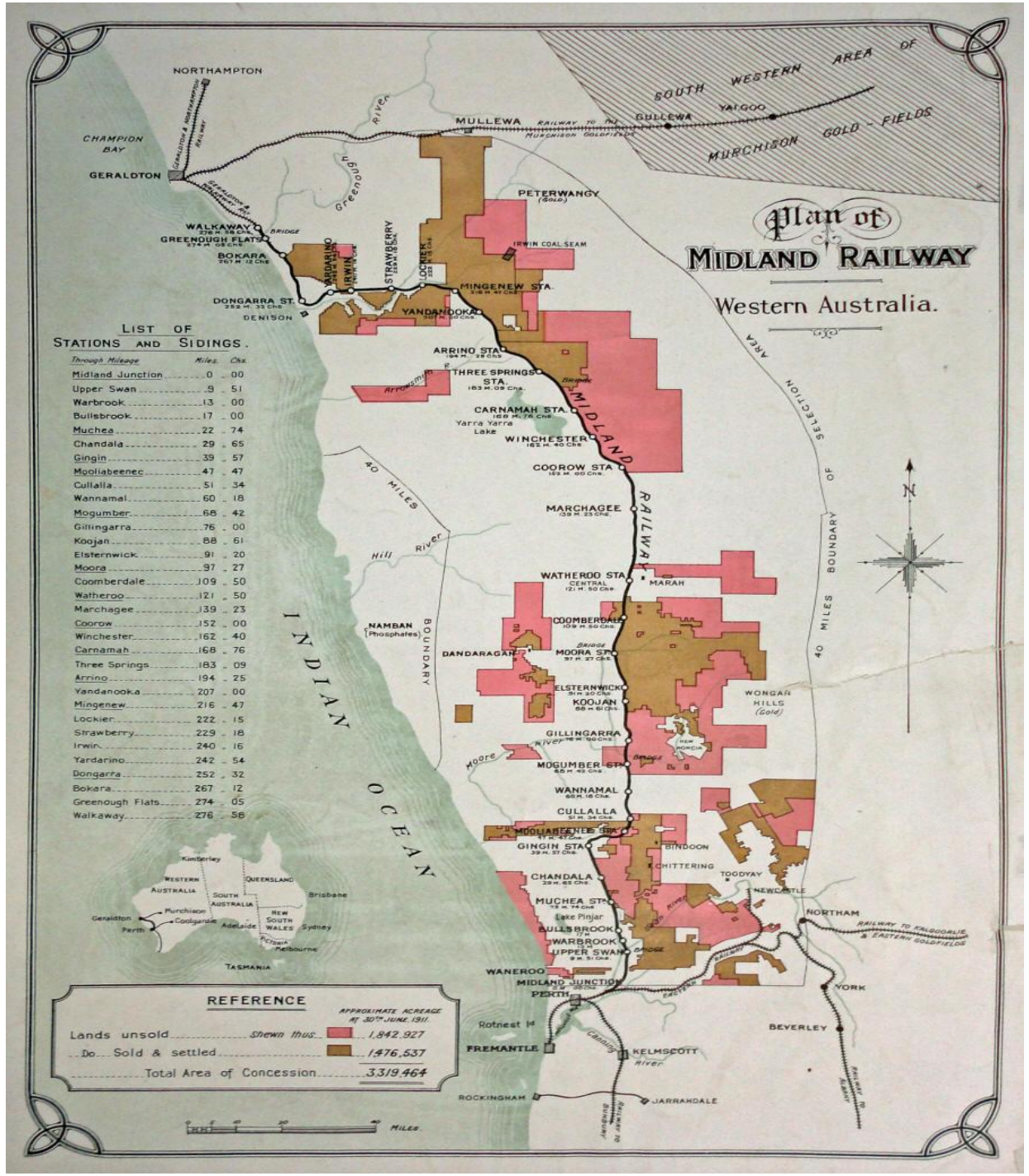
The MR Line – Midland to Walkaway

- Midland Junction to Walkaway – distance length of 276 miles 74 chains (446 kilometres).

- Stations – Midland Junction, Muchea, Gingin, Mooliabeenie, Mogumber, Moora, Watheroo, Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs, Arrino, Mingenew, Dongara and Walkaway.

The MR Line – Midland to Walkaway

- Sidings – Middle Swan, Jane Brook, Oakover, Herne Hill, Millendon, Loton's, Upper Swan, Warbrook, Bullsbrook, Chandala, Laidlaws, Pettit, Cullalla, Wannamal, Gillingarra, Barberton/Elsternwick, Cairn Hill, Coomberdale, Namban, Gunyidi, Touche, Winchester, Prowaka, Lynch, Pitfield, Yandanooka, Lockier, Strawberry, Irwin, Yardarino, Bookara and Crampton.


Plan of
MIDLAND RAILWAY
Western Australia.
NORTHAMPTON
CHAMPION BAY
GERALDTON
MULLEWA
RAILWAY TO THE MURCHISON GOLDFIELDS
SOUTH WESTERN AREA OF
GULLEWA
YALGOO
MURCHISON GOLD-FIELDS
Greenough River
PETERWANGY (Gold.)
IRWIN COAL-SEAM
WALKAWAY
GREENOUGH FLATS
BOKARA
DONGARRA ST.
DENISON
YARDARINO
IRWIN
STRAWBERRY
LOCKIER
MINGENEW STA.
YANDANOOKA
ARRINO STA.
THREE SPRINGS STA.
CARNAMAH STA.
Yarra Yarra Lake
WINCHESTER
COOROW STA.
MARCHAGEE
MIDLAND RAILWAY
WATHEROO STA.
CENTRAL
MARAH
COOMBERDALE
DANDARAGAN
MOORA STA.
ELSTERNWICK
KOOJAN
WONGAN HILLS (Gold)
GILLINGARRA
MOGUMBER STA.
WANNAMAL
CULLALLA
MOOLIABEENEE STA.
GINGIN STA.
BINDOON
CHITTERING
TOODYAY
NEWCASTLE
CHANDALA
MUCHEA STA.
Lake Pinjar
NORTHAM
BULLSBROOK
WARBROOK
UPPER SWAN
RAILWAY TO KALGOORLIE & EASTERN GOLDFIELDS
WANEROO
MIDLAND JUNCTION
PERTH
YORK
BEVERLEY
Rotnest Id
FREMANTLE
KELMSCOTT
ROCKINGHAM
JARRAHDALE
Canning River
Hill River
Moore River
Arrowsmith R.
40 MILES
INDIAN OCEAN
NAMBAN (Phosphates)
BOUNDARY
40 MILES BOUNDARY OF SELECTION AREA
N
LIST OF STATIONS AND SIDINGS.
Through Mileage
Midland Junction 0 . 00
Upper Swan 9 . 51
Warbrook 13 . 00
Bullsbrook 17 . 00
Muchea 22 . 74
Chandala 29 . 65
Gingin 39 . 57
Mooliabeenee 47 . 47
Cullalla 51 . 34
Wannamal 60 . 18
Mogumber 68 . 42
Gillingarra 76 . 00
Koojan 88 . 61
Elsternwick 91 . 20
Moora 97 . 27
Coomberdale 109 . 50
Watheroo 121 . 50
Marchagee 139 . 23
Coorow 152 . 00
Winchester 162 . 40
Carnamah 168 . 76
Three Springs 183 . 09
Arrino 194 . 25
Yandanooka 207 . 00
Mingenew 216 . 47
Lockier 222 . 15
Strawberry 229 . 18
Irwin 240 . 16
Yardarino 242 . 54
Dongarra 252 . 32
Bokara 267 . 12
Greenough Flats 274 . 05
Walkaway 276 . 56
Kimberley
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Brisbane
Geraldton
Murchison
Coolgardie
Perth
Adelaide
NEW SOUTH WALES
Sydney
Victoria
Melbourne
TASMANIA
REFERENCE
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE AT 30TH JUNE 1911.
Lands unsold ..... Shewn thus 1,842,927
Do. Sold & settled 1,476,537
Total Area of Concession 3319.464
0 5 10 20 40 Miles.

The MR in Irwin Districts

- The section of line between Walkaway and Mingenew opened on August 16, 1891.
- **Strawberry** – (359km) opened in August 1891 as a siding and closed on February 2, 1981.
- **Irwin** – (376km) opened in August 1891 as a siding. Water for locomotives was piped from a soak located 1km south of the water tank. It closed as a siding on May 25, 1986.

MRWA F class 43, Strawberry, ca. 1960.

Photographer K. Pearce. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. T03941.

The MR in Irwin Districts

- **Yardarino** – (380km) opened in August 1891 as Yarradino and renamed Yardarino in 1907. It closed on March 3, 1969.

- **Bookara** – (419km) opened in April 1891 as King's Siding reverted to Bokara in 1895 before being renamed Bookara in 1915. Closed as a public siding on September 22, 1975.

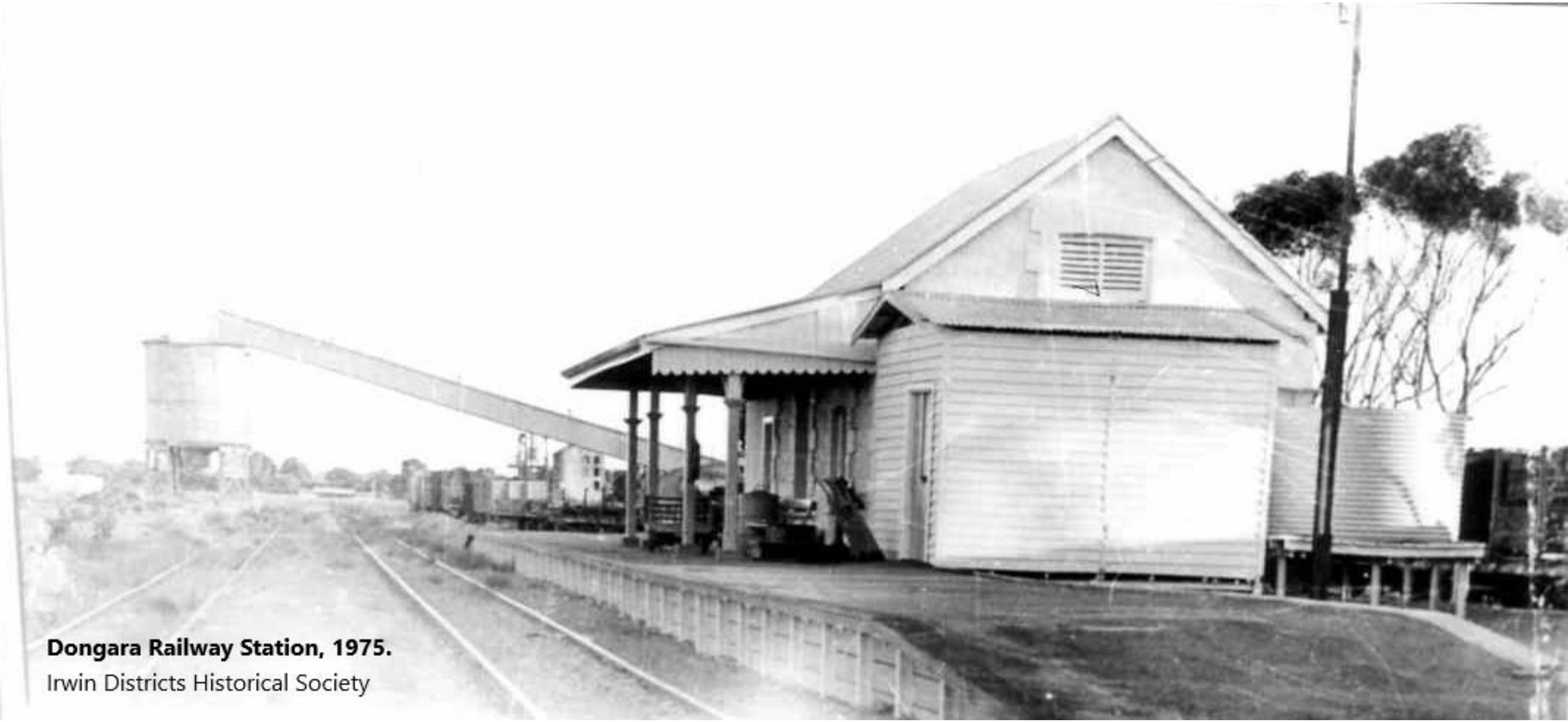
The MR in Irwin Districts

- **Dongara -** (393km) opened in April 1891 and was renamed Dongarra in 1908 before reverting back to Dongara in 1946.

  It was a Class 1 Station built of stone with stationmaster in attendance throughout its duration.

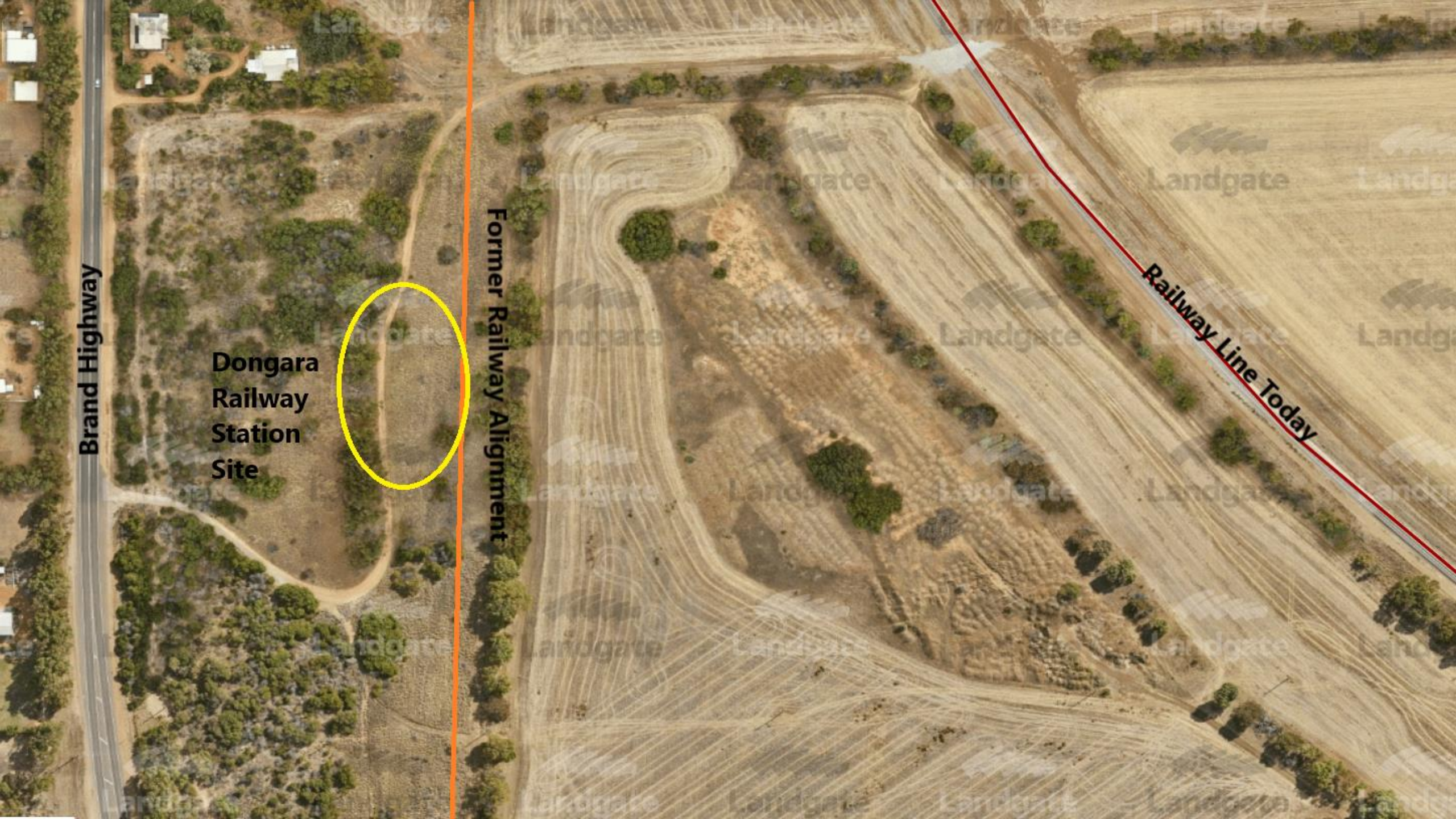
  It closed on June 1, 1975 and demolished following the opening of the Dongara Bypass as part of the railway to Eneabba.

Dongara Railway Station, 1924
Irwin Districts Historical Society



Dongara Railway Station, 1975.
Irwin Districts Historical Society

Dongara Railway Station, 1975
Irwin Districts Historical Society


Brand Highway
Dongara Railway Station Site
Former Railway Alignment
Railway Line Today

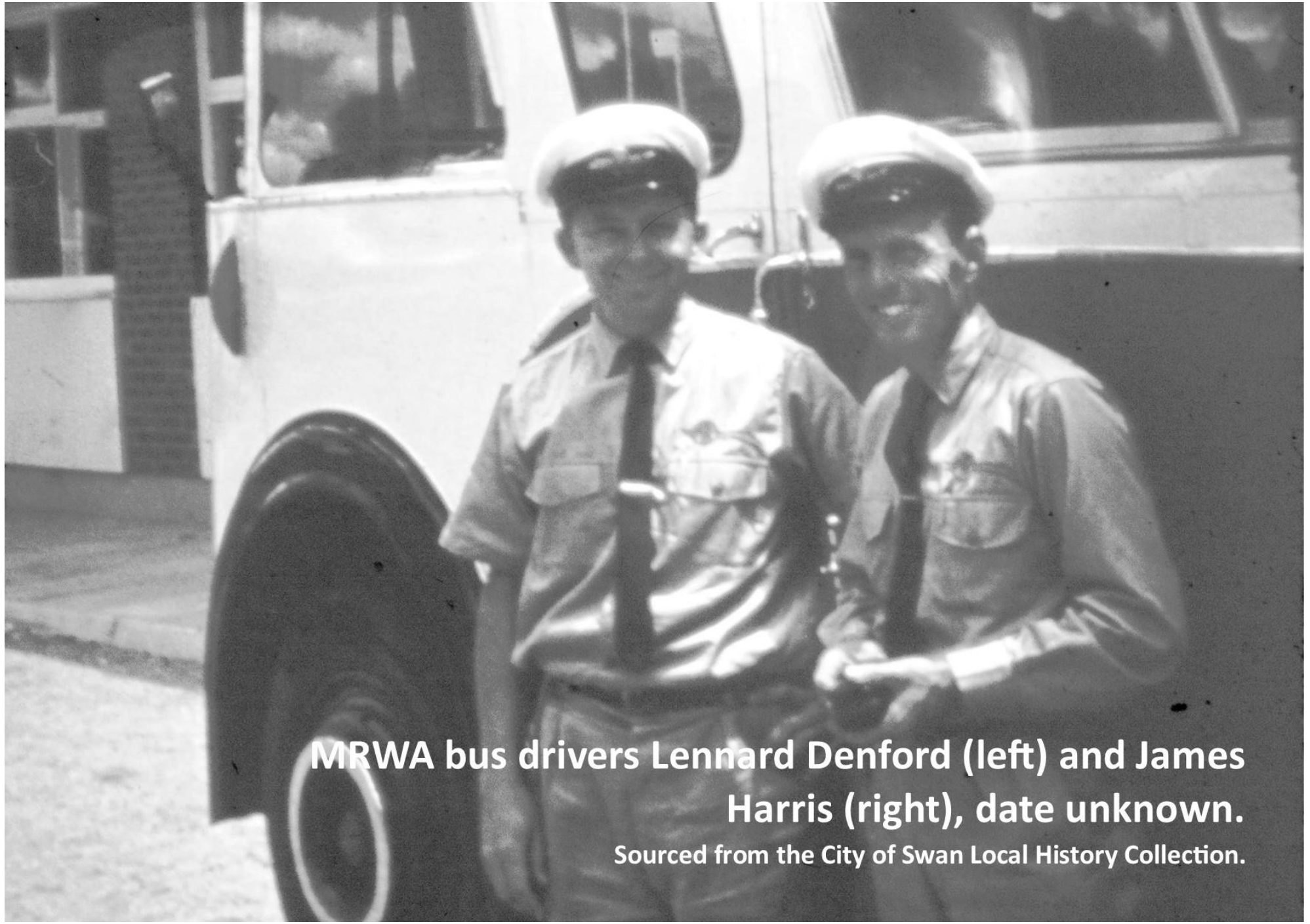
MIDLAND RAILWAY ROAD SERVICE
W.A.

MRWA bus en route to Geraldton, date unknown.

Sourced from the City of Swan Local History Collection.

MRWA driver on a wildflower tour, date unknown.

Sourced from the City of Swan Local History Collection.



MRWA bus drivers Lennard Denford (left) and James Harris (right), date unknown.

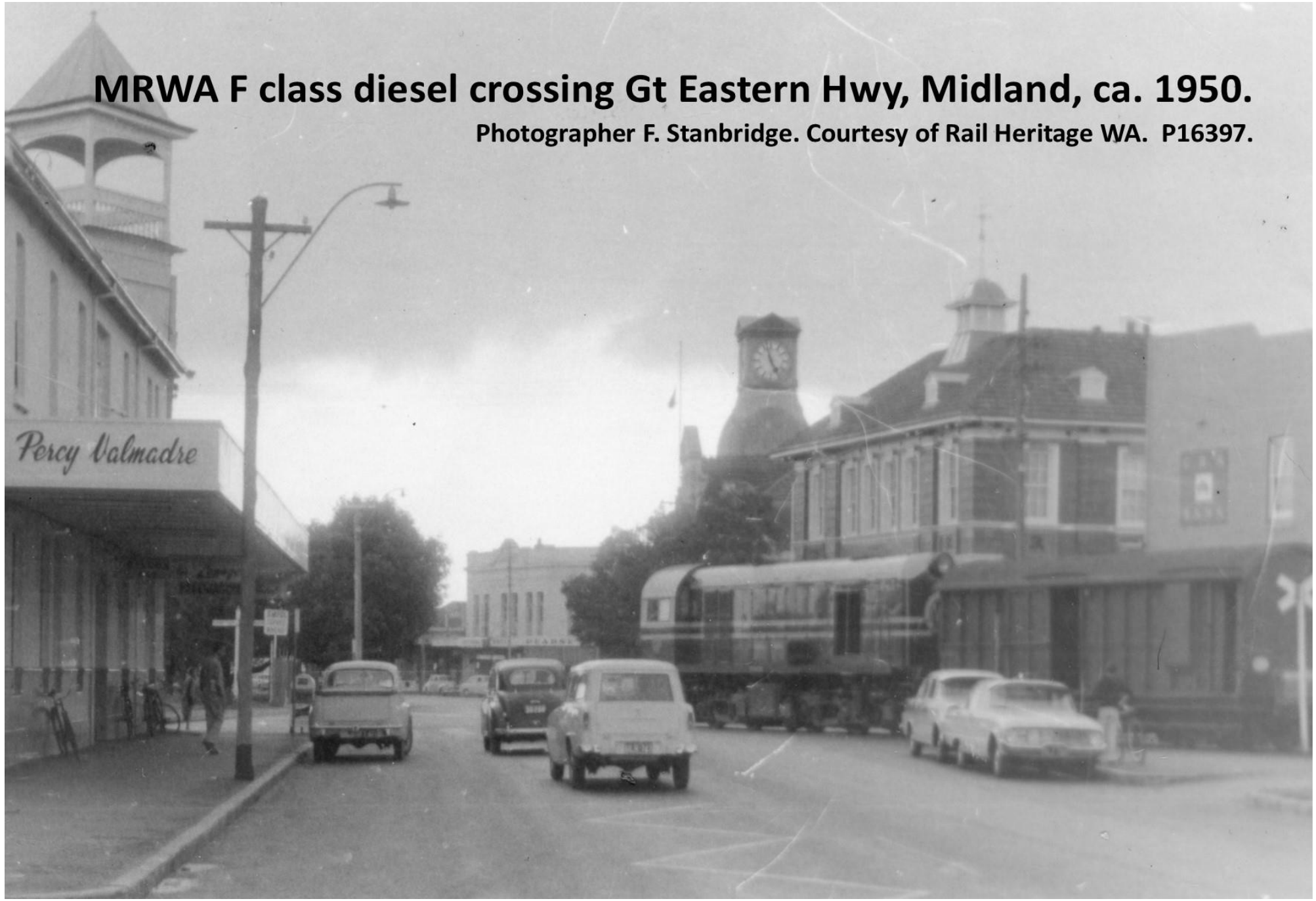
Sourced from the City of Swan Local History Collection.

MRWA freight truck at the depot, date unknown.

Sourced from the City of Swan Local History Collection.

First MRWA north-bound train, 1894.

Sourced from the City of Swan Local History Collection.



MRWA F class diesel crossing Gt Eastern Hwy, Midland, ca. 1950.

Photographer F. Stanbridge. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P16397.

Crowd waiting for the Queen to arrive.

Photographer unknown. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P12657.

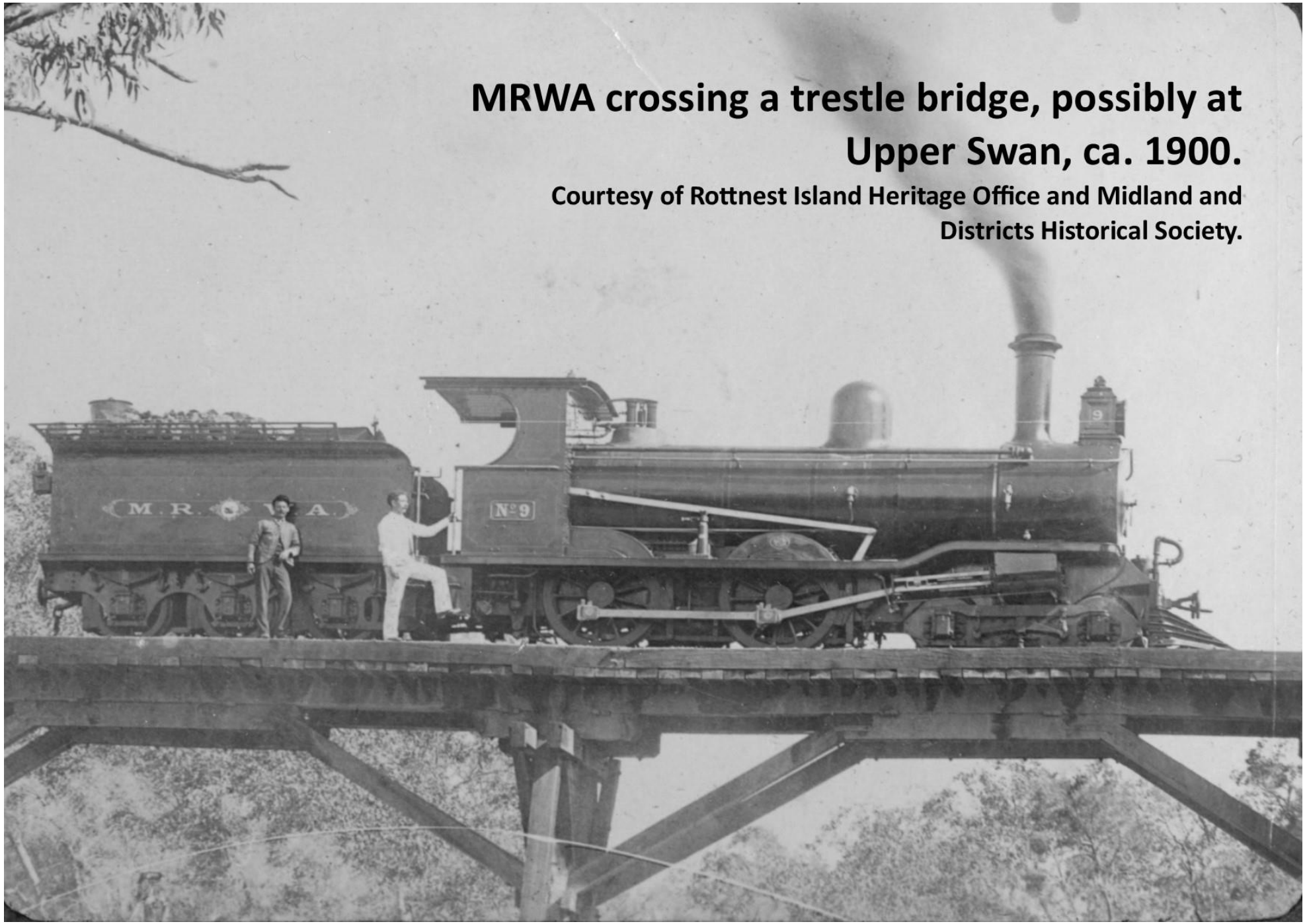
MRWA C class, Midland, ca. 1960.

Photographer R. Moss.

Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. T03281.

Midland Junction station, 1918. Located only metres east of the MRWA workshops, Midland station was not on the Midland Railway line.

Courtesy of City of Swan Local History Collection.



MRWA crossing a trestle bridge, possibly at Upper Swan, ca. 1900.

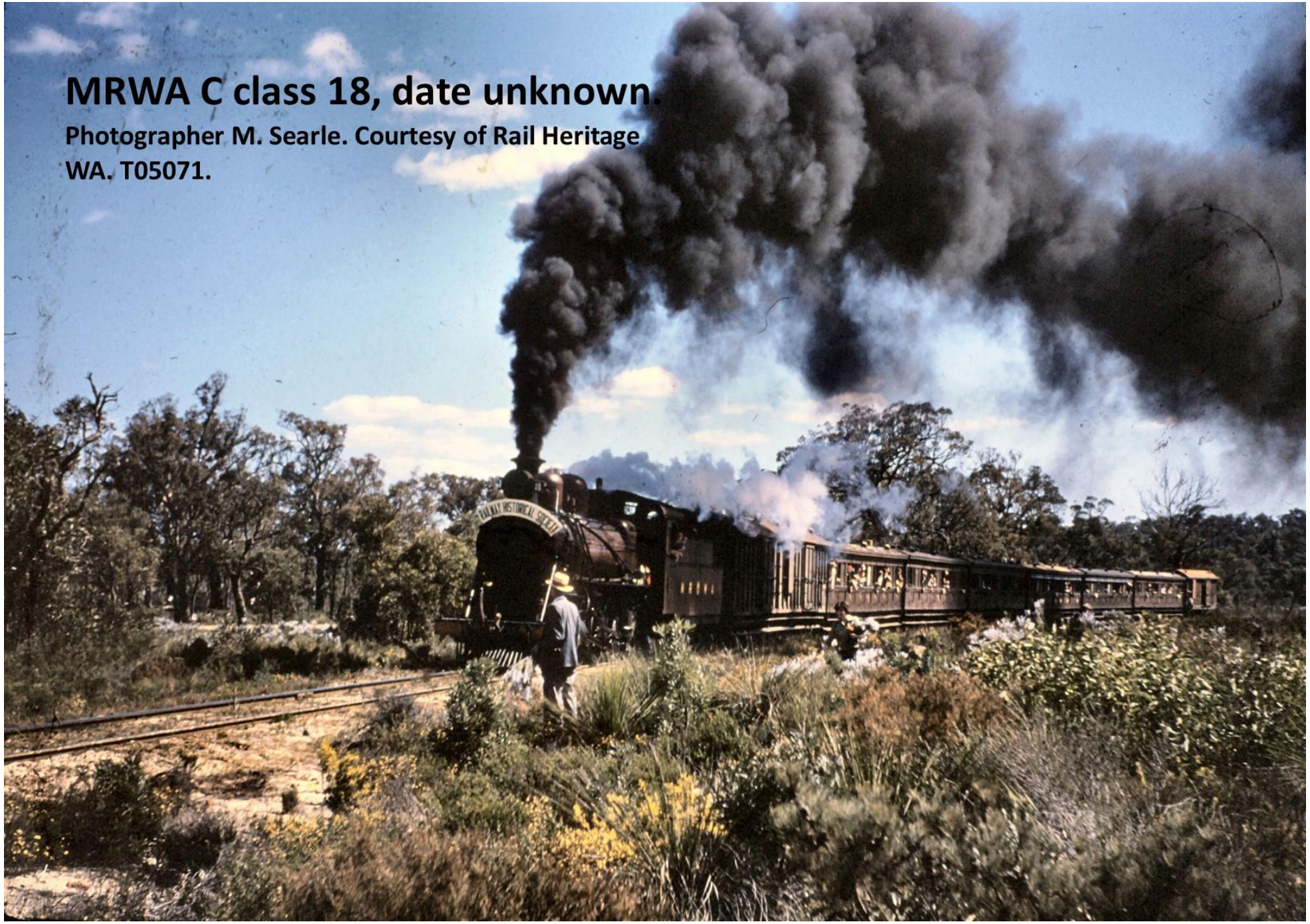
Courtesy of Rottnest Island Heritage Office and Midland and Districts Historical Society.

Muchea Station, ca. 1960.

Photographer M. Searle. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P19117.

MRWA C class 18, Gingin, ca. 1910.

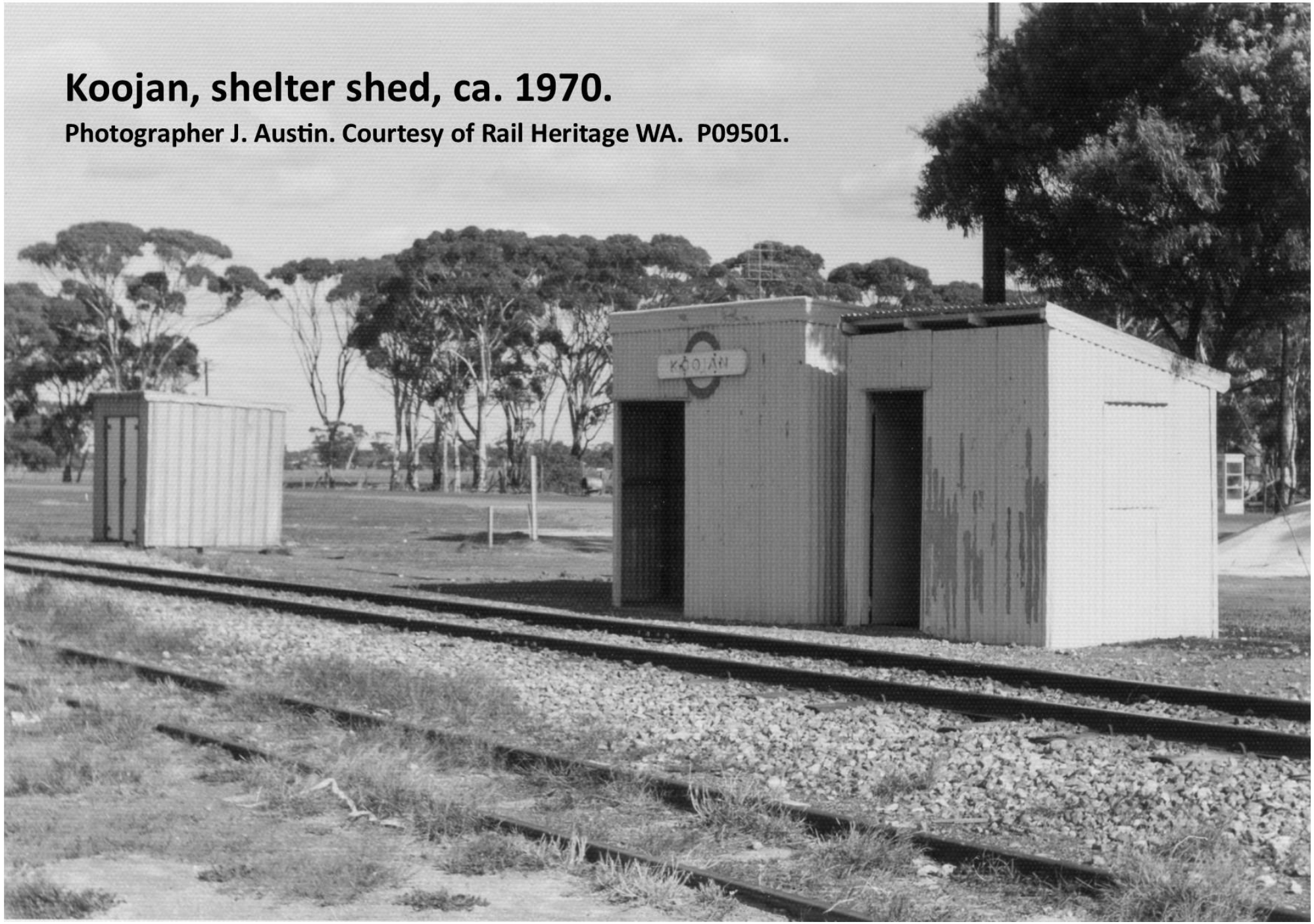
Photographer unknown. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P07536.



MRWA C class 18, date unknown.

Photographer M. Searle. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. T05071.

AM class 313 inspection carriage and
MRWA staff, Mogumber, ca. 1960.
Photographer WAGR. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. T00281.



Koojan, shelter shed, ca. 1970.

Photographer J. Austin. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P09501.

Barberton shelter shed, ca. 1970.

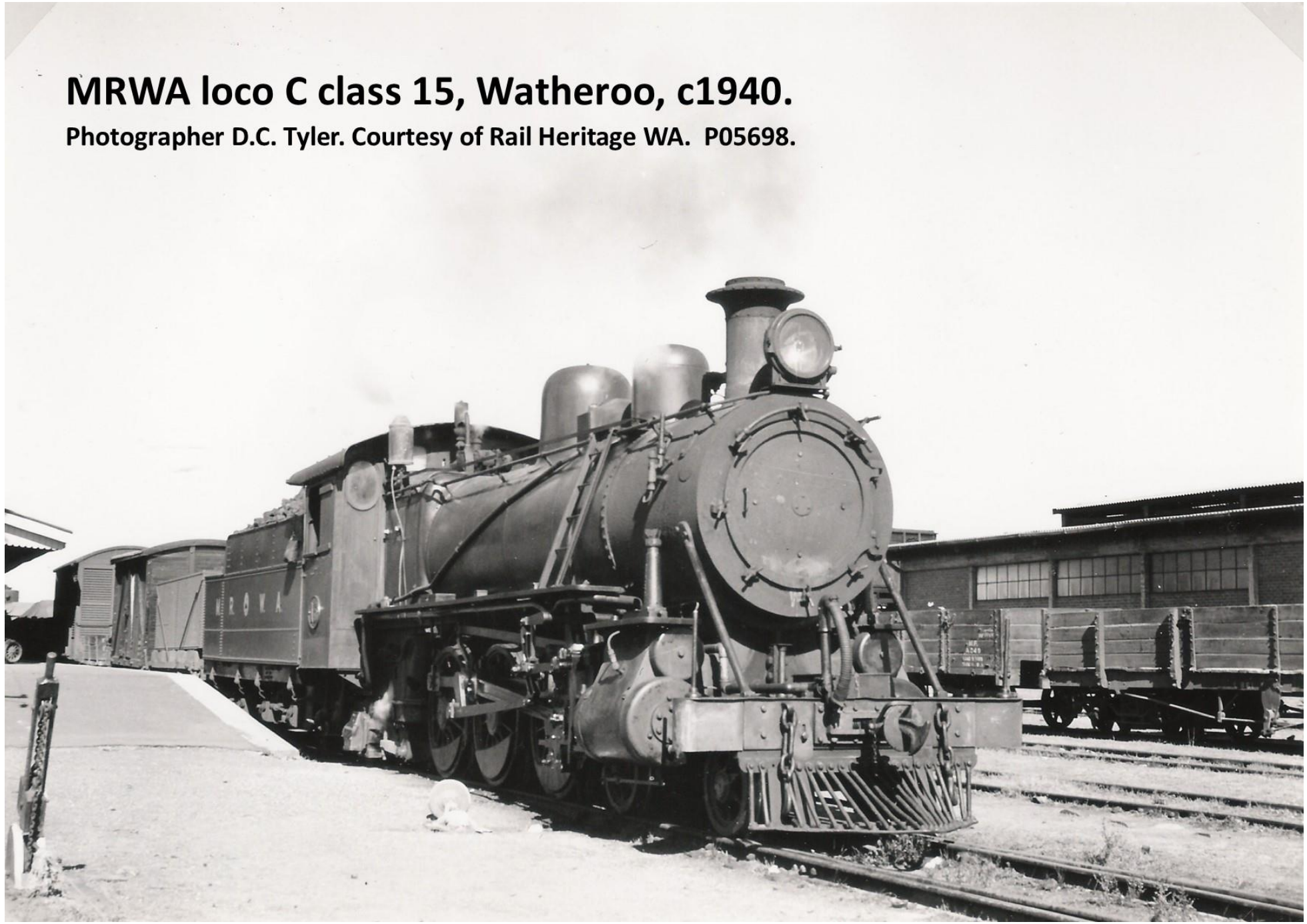
Photographer J. Austin. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P09502.

Moora Station, ca. 1910.

Photographer unknown. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P05753.

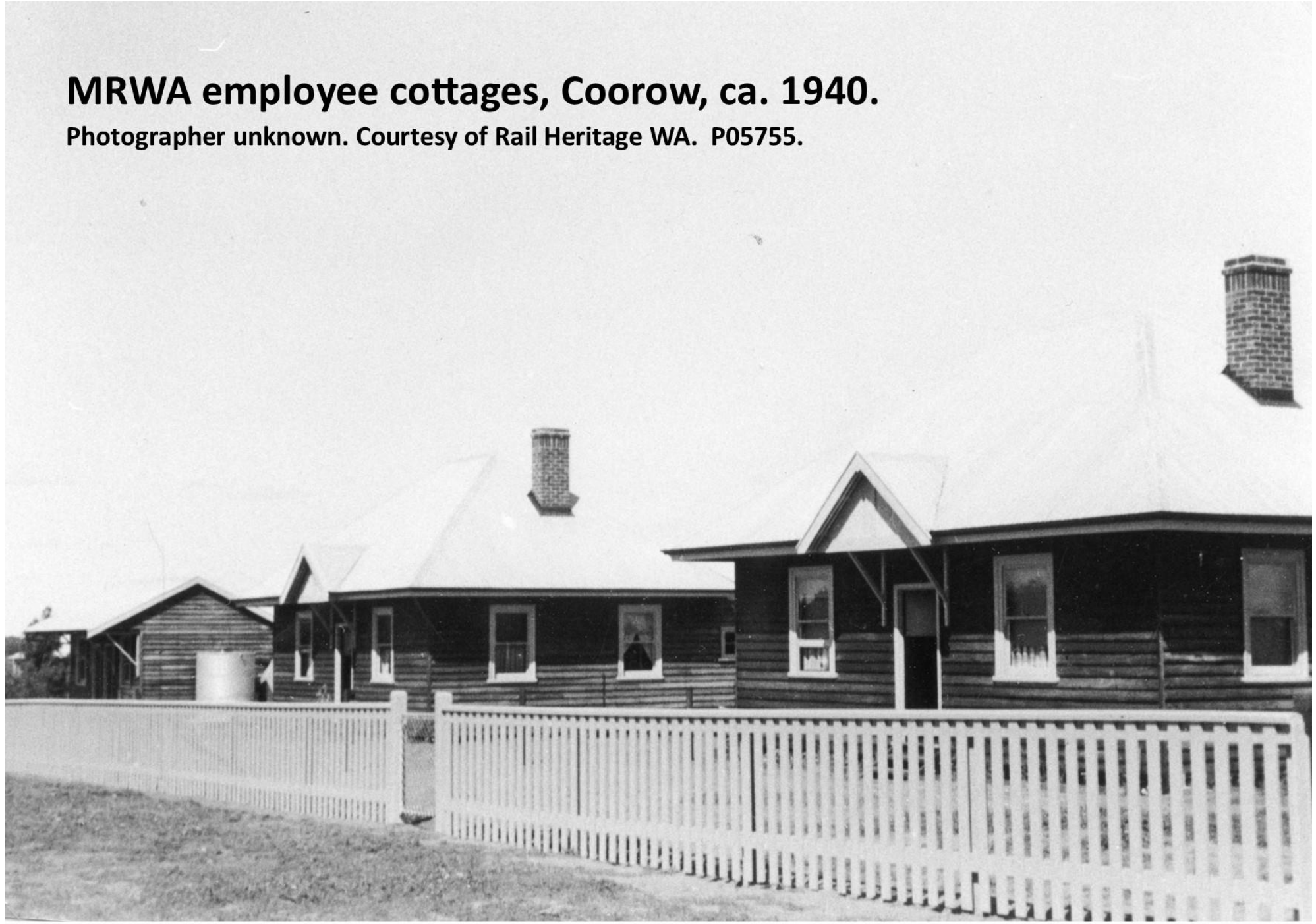
MRWA loco C class 15, Watheroo, c1940.

Photographer D.C. Tyler. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P05698.



MRWA employee cottages, Coorow, ca. 1940.

Photographer unknown. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P05755.



Carnamah Station, c1940.

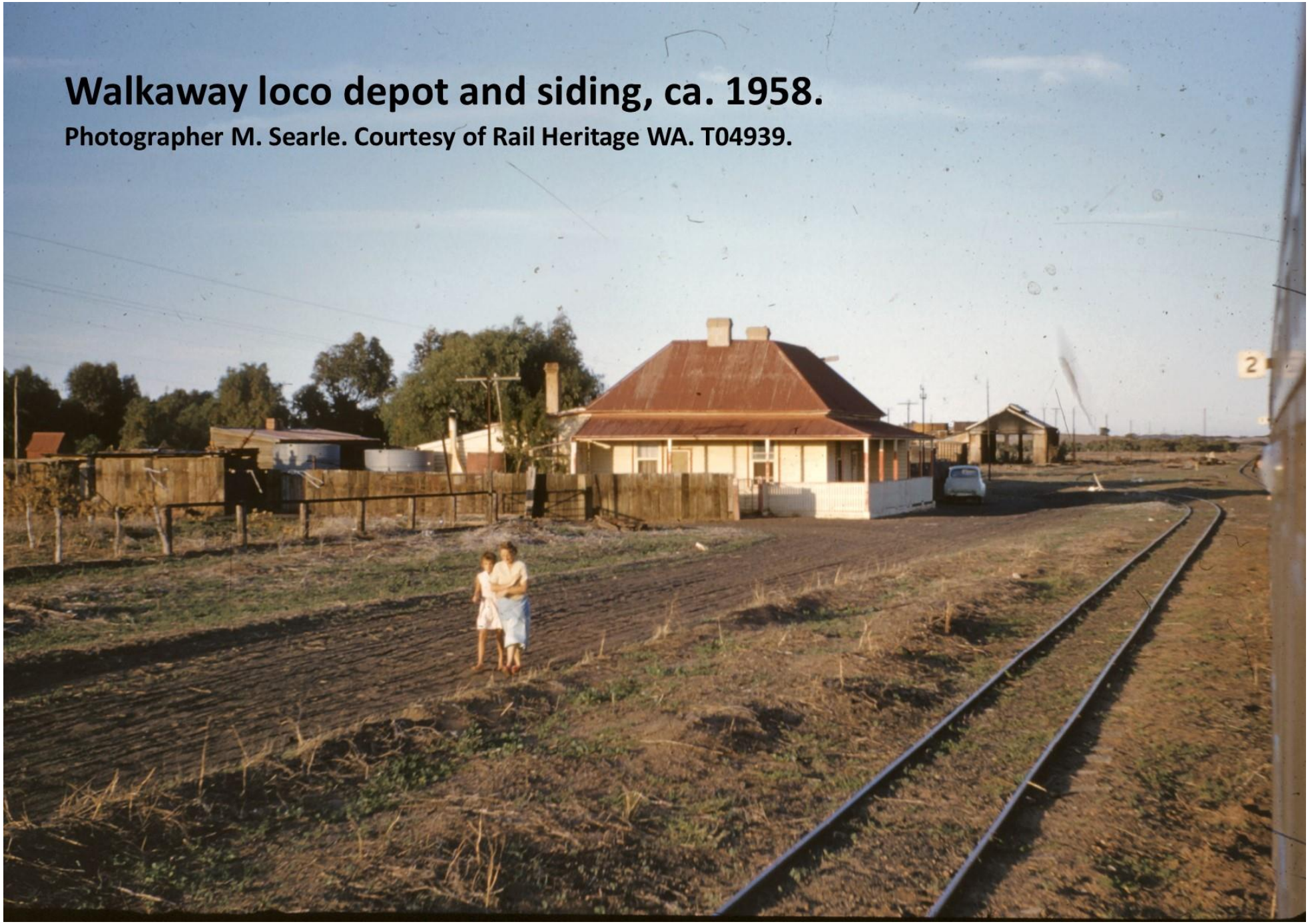
Photographer D.C. Tyler. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P05715.

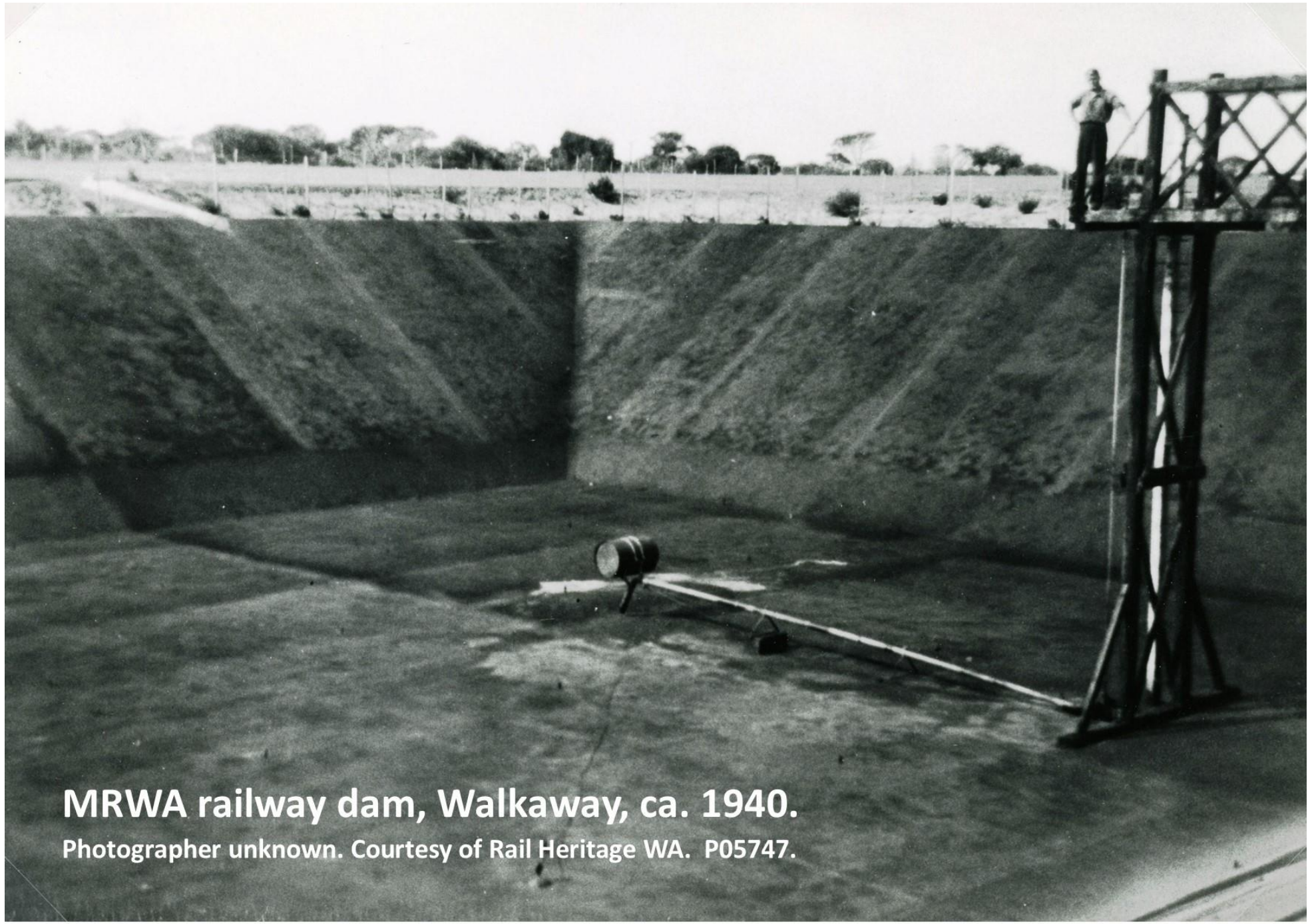
Three Springs Station, c1940.
Photographer D.C. Tyler. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P05716.

Mingenew Railway Station, date unknown.
Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P21477.

MRWA F class 44, Mingenew, date unknown.

Photographer unknown. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P10226.


Walkaway loco depot and siding, ca. 1958.
Photographer M. Searle. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. T04939.

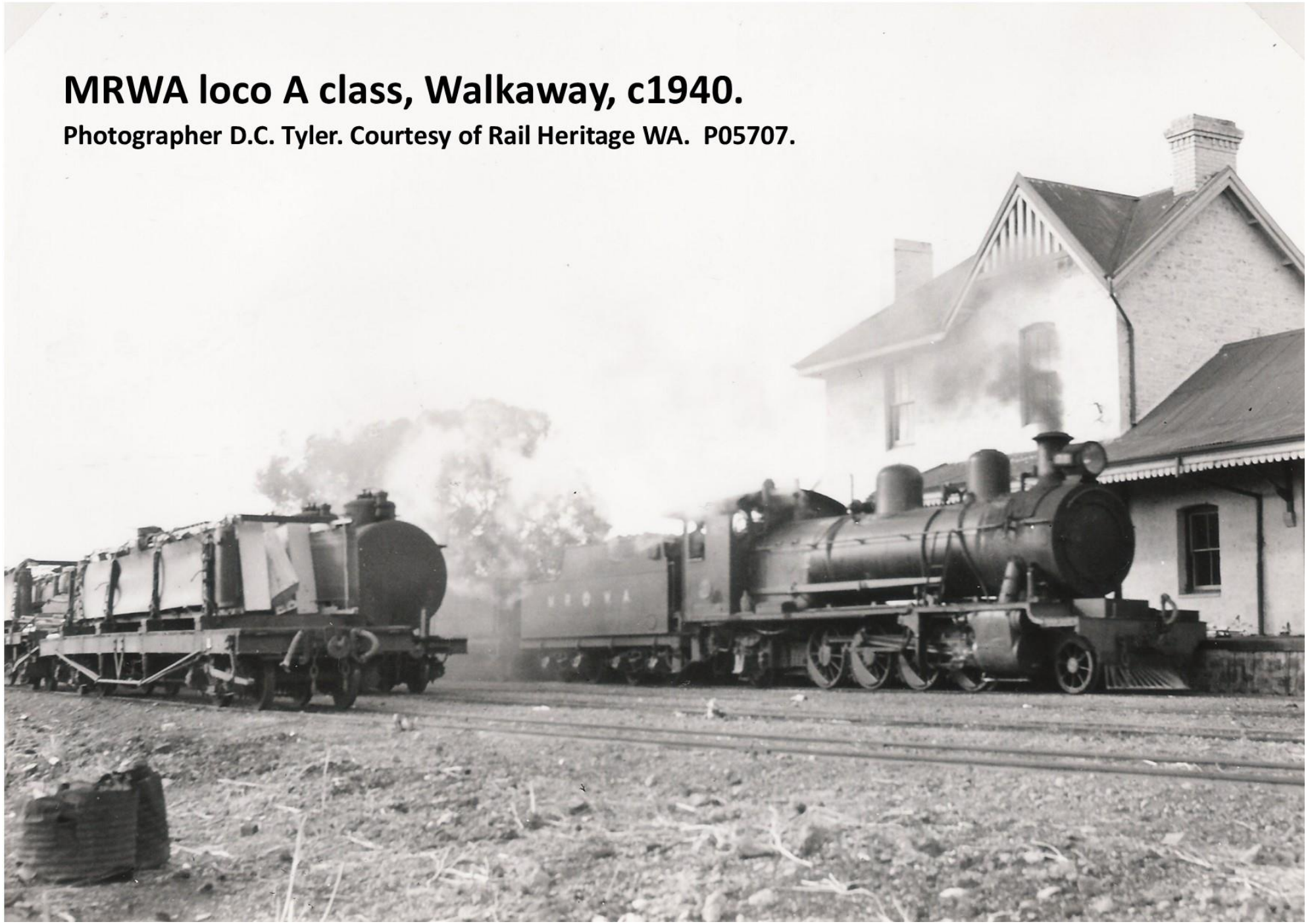


MRWA railway dam, Walkaway, ca. 1940.

Photographer unknown. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P05747.

MRWA loco A class, Walkaway, c1940.

Photographer D.C. Tyler. Courtesy of Rail Heritage WA. P05707.



Midland Railway Network

- February 2021 saw the formation of the Midland Railway Network.
- The idea of forming a network of historical societies, museums and community groups along the MR Line from Midland to Walkaway was conceived in response to the struggles of attention and recognition for a part of history that we all share along the line.
- The network would promote, recognise and collect history of the Midland Railway Company of Western Australia. We would support each other to achieve that.

Midland Railway Network

- 14 groups within the Midland Railway Network.

Midland and Districts Historical Society
Bullsbrook Residents and Ratepayers Association
Shire of Gingin
Wannamal Community Centre
Mogumber and Districts Progress Association
Moora Historical Society
Coorow Heritage Group
Shire of Carnamah
Carnamah Historical Society & Museum
Mingenew Historical Society
Irwin Districts Historical Society
Walkaway Station Museum
Rail Heritage WA

Midland Railway Network

- Midland and Districts Historical Society unveiled the Midland Railway Company Commemorative Site in Midland in February 2022.

TALKIE TEA ROOMS
TELEGRAPH OFFICE
www.swan.wa.gov.au/arts

WA's Midland Railway Company
-The Railway and its lines
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MIDLAND AND DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA LTD.
WELDERS
DO IT IN ALL POSITIONS
WITH 100%
PENETRATION
136
MIDLAND AND DISTRICTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA LTD.

Eighteen years before the Western Australian Government Railways (WAGR) Workshops were relocated to Helena Vale (Midland) from Fremantle, an English syndicate of investors represented by John Waddington proposed the building of a rail line from Helena Vale to Geraldton. The proposal was accepted by the Western Australian Government in 1884 and the Waddington agreement for construction of the rail line was signed in February 1886.

March 1886 the first sod was turned and construction of the Midland Railway line commenced. The line from Helena Vale to Walkaway was completed in 1894 opening up the Midlands Region for agriculture and settlement. The Midland Railway Company of Western Australia Limited was taken over by the Western Australian Government Railways in August 1964.

This site was home to the Midland Railway Company of Western Australia Limited - its administration, locomotive depot and workshops. A goods rail line ran from this location across the Helena Street and Great Eastern Highway intersection and followed The Crescent before converging with the passenger rail line just north of Morrison Road on what is now Lloyd Street. From there the line headed north to Walkaway.

The Midland Railway Company of WA was a land grant railway conceived before WA's goldrush altered the economic landscape. This map outlines the land grant scheme along the railway.

Sourced from the collections of the State Library of Western Australia

This commemorative rail and plaque honours both the company that gave Midland its name, and the employees and families who assisted to open up the Midlands Region and establish Midland as a major regional centre.

Unveiled on Sunday 13th February 2022

MIDLAND AND DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED ON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1986 BY
HIS EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR GORDON REID
GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TO COMMEMORATE THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF
"THE TURNING OF THE FIRST SOD"
SIGNIFYING THE COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF
THE MIDLAND RAILWAY BETWEEN GUILDFORD AND WALKAWAY

MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA LTD.
KEN
WYATT MP
MIDLAND AND DISTRICTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Midland Railway Network

- Shire of Mingenew has been successful in obtaining a Lotterywest grant to refurbish the Mingenew Railway Station. Work was completed in March 2023.

- Moora Historical Society has been successful in obtaining grants to commence the restoration of the F Class Locomotive on display in Moora. Sourcing labour to complete the work has been a challenge.

- Thank you for listening to my presentation.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.